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DETAILED ACTION

The following action is response to the election filed for application 10/550,501 filed on August 21, 2008.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Stewart on September 17, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 12-13, 19, 23, 27, and 30-35 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7, 9, 15-16, 18, 20-22, 24-26 and 28 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to show or render obvious the vehicle master clutch engagement method as claimed, and particularly including setting an operating mode of the clutch based on the comparison step at a first rate when the throttle operating parameter value (or desired fueling rate) is less than the first threshold value; and at a second rate more aggressive than the first rate when the throttle

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operating parameter value (or desired fueling rate) is greater than the first threshold value, and including the remaining controls of claims 5, 20, 24, 26, and 28, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Smyth, Braun, Juergens, Kanno, and Liu have been cited to show similar clutch controls.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roger L. Pang whose telephone number is 571-272-7096. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roger L Pang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3681

Roger L Pang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

September 19, 2008